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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,423	09/08/2003	Herve Guy Bricaud	C-CPI-0111	9014

7590 06/07/2005

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EXAMINER

VU, HIEN D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/657,423

Applicant(s)

BRICAUD ET AL.

Examiner

Hien D. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16 and 17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. Applicant's election of species 1, figs. 1-25, claims 1-15, in paper dated 2/20/05 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 2, 9, 5-10, 13-15 are objected to because in claim 2, line 3, "merging with a rest of said cover" is unclear, line 5, "the part" lacks an antecedent basis. Claim 5, line 2, it is unclear what the features "mount sections" and "pads engaging parts" are referring to. Claim 6, line 2, "them" is unclear. Claim 8 features are unclear as to how the cavity could have a front lower surface with grooves and contact pads in the grooves since such features are not shown in the drawings. Claim 13 features are not understood.
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

4. (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
5. Claims 1, 2, 4 & 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being antecedent by Abe et al.

Insofar as the claims can be understood, the disclosure of Abe provides a complete response to each and every element set forth in the claims. For example, figs. 2-6 show a smart card connector 10 to be mounted on a circuit board (not shown), an insulative support 20, a sheet metal cover 30, first and second laterally spaced sides 70, a card-detecting switch (50, 70), a metal contact 73, a switch blade 53, an end of

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the switch blade 53 is deflected away from the card and against the metal contact 73 when the card is inserted into the cavity.

As to claim 2, a slot (not labeled) with a tine 70.

As to claim 4, now of contacts 40, pad-engaging parts 40a, tails 40b, the metal cover 30 with pair of laterally spaced lower tabs (not labeled) at front end 30a.

As to claim 11, the claim features are similar as claims 1 & 4, therefore it is rejected under the similar rationale.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3, 5-10 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abe et al in view of Ooya et al and Nogami et al.

As to claims 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, insofar as the claims can be understood, Abe, does not show the support has a front edge portion with a top surface having a pair of laterally spaced notches for receiving a pair of downward projections. Ooga, figs. 3 show a support 2 having a front edge portion 12 with top surface having a pair of laterally spaced notches 14 for receiving a pair of downward projections 7 therein. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Abe by forming the front edge portion of the support with a pair of laterally-spaced notches and

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the cover with a pair of downward projections, as taught by Ooya, in order to secure the cover to the support.

As to claims 5, 8, 13-15, Abe does not show the support having upstanding boxes with slots that receive the contact free ends, and a stop fixed to the support and projecting upward into the cavity, and the stop being positioned in one of the grooves. Nogami, Figs. 1-3 show a support 42 having upstanding boxes (not labeled) with slots (not labeled) that receive contact free ends 48 and a stop or box fixed to the support and projecting upward into the cavity (not labeled), and the stop being positioned in one of the groove (not labeled). It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Abe by forming the support with boxes or a stop with the features as described above, as taught by Nogami, in order to prevent damage to the ends of the contacts.

As to claim 7, fig. 2 of Abe shows a cut out (not labeled) in the middle of the front wall.

8. Takamori et al, Huang Shishikura et al, Benjamin et al, Oguchi, Takada et al and Bricaud et al are cited for disclosure of card connectors.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D. Vu at telephone number (571) 272-2016.

Vu/ds

05/18/05


HIEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER